

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 COTONO 00648 161618Z

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-01 L-02 ABF-01 /016 W

----- 057751

P 161540Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7157

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COTONOU 648

PASS AF/W

EO 16652 NA

TAGS: EAID, DM

SUBJ: SPECIAL SELF-HELP FUNDS (SSH) FOR FY75

REF A. STATE 113753 B. COTONOU 636 C. STATE 11364 D. CHESHES-

SEGALL LTR MAY 8 E. COTNNOU 576 F. SEGALL-CHESHES LTR

15 APRIL G. COTONOU 250

1. WE ARE COMPLETELY BAFFLED BY REF A WHICH HAS THE EFFECT OF NULLIFYING THE MASSIVE EFFORT THIS EMBASSY HAS MADE IN PAST THREE MONTHS TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY AND PAYOFF OF SELF-HELP PROGRAM. REF B DID NOT RPT NOT SAY WE WOULD MAKE FULL USE OF \$59,000. IT SAID WE WOULD MAKE USE OF THE \$74,000 THAT REF F INDICATED WOULD BE ALLOTTED TO US DURING FY75. WE DO NOT FORESEE ANY PROBLEM IN OBLIGATION THE FULL AMOUNT IN GOOD TIME.

2. RE IMPEDIMENTS RELATING TO DAHOMEAN GOVT DESCRIBED REF G, WE HAVE INDEED MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS, IN FACT MUCH MORE THAN WE ANTICIPATED. AS RESULT OF INTENSIVE EFFORT FROM OUR SIDE, COOPERATION OF DAHOMEAN OFFICIALS IN THIS SPHERE HAS GREATLY IMPROVED AND EFFICIENCY OF THE PROGRAM HAS INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY. (THIS CONNECTION ALL PROJECTS HAVE TO PASS THROUGH THE DAHOMEAN CHAIN OF COMMAND BEFORE THEY GET TO US.) POPULARITY OF PROGRAM IN VILLAGES CONTINUES TO MOUNT.

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3. WE SEE NO VALID BASIS TO TAKE AWAY OUR FOURTH QTR TRANCHE.

WE COULD HAVE APPROVED MORE THAN \$74,000 WORTH OF ACCEPTABLE PROJECTS TWO MONTHS AGO WITH A FEW STROKES OF THE PEN IF OUR PROGRAM HERE HAD REMAINED ON THE TRADITIONAL BASIS, WITHOUT INTENSIVE INSPECTION AND COST CONTROL. THROUGH INVESTIGATION OF INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS, WE ARE SAVING MONEY, SOMETIMES SUBSTANTIAL SUMS OF MONEY, IN ALMOST EVERY CASE, AND WE ARE AT LAST ON A BASIS THAT WOULD PLEASE ANY AUDITORS. OUR CONCERN IS NOT TO SPEND MONEY QUICKLY BUT TO SPEND IT WISELY AND GET THE MAXIMUM OUT OF IT (AND OF COURSE, ALSO IN GOOD TIME).

4. WE WOULD URGE FURTHER REFLECTION ON CONTENTS OF REF B, WHICH DESCRIBED WHAT WE ARE DOING. SELF-HELP PROGRAM IS VITAL TO US AT THIS MOMENT, IT IS THE ONLY ONE WE HAVE THAT HAS A GOOD POTENTIAL FOR LARGE-SCALE AS YET UNREALIZED PAYOFFS IN MARXIST-LENINIST DAHOMEY, WHERE OUR RANGE OF MANOEUVRE IS SO NARROW. WE DO HAVE THE FISCAL YEAR TIMETABLE CONSTANTLY IN MIND, AND OUR EFFORTS ARE PACED ACCORDINGLY.

5. WE HAVE ALREADY TOLD MOST SPONSORS OF PENDING ACCEPTABLE APPLICATIONS THAT THEIR PROJECTS WILL BE APPROVED AND AGREEMENTS ARE ALREADY IN PROCESS OF BEING DRAWN UP. WE CANNOT BACKDOWN NOW, NOT AFTER OUR INTENSIVE WORK WITH SPONSORS TO GET SOUND COST-CONSCIOUS PROJECTS AND AFTER THE PUBLIC RELATIONS CREDIT WE HAVE RECEIVED.

6. WE PROPOSE A) SENDING IN PERIODIC REPORTS ON FURTHER OBLIGATIONS AND B) WINDING UP ON SAY MAY 30, WHEN WE WOULD TURN BACK ANY UNOBLIGATED FUNDS (WE DO NOT EXPECT TO HAVE ANY).

7. ACTION REQUESTED: IMMEDIATE RESTORATION OF \$74,000 LEVEL FY FY75.  
ENGLE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE APPROPRIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975COTONO00648  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750173-0032  
**From:** COTONOU  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750541/aaaablan.tel  
**Line Count:** 95  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 113753, 75 COTONOU 636, 75 STATE 11364  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <22 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SPECIAL SELF-HELP FUNDS (SSH) FOR FY75  
**TAGS:** EAID, DM, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006